HONORING THE CREWMEN AND THEIR SERVICE TO THE USS ALABAMA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Mobile and the state of Alabama are honored to be the home of the USS Alabama, and I rise today to honor her former crewmen for their tremendous sacrifice and service.

For more than 40 years, the USS Alabama has graced Mobile Bay with her beauty. As one of Alabama's top tourist attractions, she continues to serve as a lasting memorial and tribute to the "Greatest Generation."

Constructed in the Norfolk Navy Yard on December 1, 1940, the USS Alabama was commissioned on August 16, 1942, with Captain George B. Wilson in command.

In nearly five years of commissioned service, the USS Alabama earned nine battle stars for participation in the Atlantic and Pacific Campaigns of World War II. The USS Alabama is representative of the South Dakota class of American battleships that fought against Japan in World War II. She also earned the Navy Occupation Service Medal Pacific, for the period fought in Korea during September of 1945.

The USS Alabama defended her nation against an enemy of oppression and now reflects the pride of a grateful nation. After retiring in 1962, the USS Alabama was stationed in Mobile Bay and opened as a museum the following year. Nicknamed the "Mighty A," she was added to the National Historic Landmark registry in 1986.

Former Alabama Governor George C. Wallace received the battleship on behalf of the state. Years later, in remembering the event, he said, "On the day we were piped aboard by the U.S. Marine Band from Washington, tears welled up in my eyes, and chills went down my spine, as I thought of all the boys killed in World War II, and who died and were dying in the Vietnam War, and that this was a tribute to them for us to save this ship as a lasting monument."

Madam Speaker, the USS Alabama holds a reunion every year in April, to honor the crewmen who fought for each American's freedom. Of the approximately 6,000 original members of the USS Alabama, the following members were able to attend the most recent reunion: Hildrey H. Arnette, Frank Basham, Preston A. Bristow, John R. Brown, Stan Bryn, Gene Giarrusso, Daniel R. Glass, Leo J. Goulet, Albert A. Grimm, William Hahn, Millard F. Hill, John Kilgore, Jimmie D. Maish, Raymond Medved, Sr., Dr. William R. Miller, Frank Radulski, Sr., Leuico B. Sealy, Frank Sherman, John Simpler, Edward J. Suchy, Kenneth E. Thomas, and Leva Loyd Witt.

They personify the very best America has to offer. I urge my colleagues to take a moment to pay tribute to these men—and all of the soldiers who fought in World War II—for their selfless devotion to our country and the freedom we enjoy.

SHANNON SILVA, LABOR LEADER OF THE YEAR

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 2009

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a very dedicated, committed leader of the labor movement in America who deserves to be recognized for his tireless contributions to working men and women.

Shannon Silva was born and raised in San Diego, California. He graduated from the University of San Diego High School in 1974. After High School, Shannon followed the family tradition as a tuna fisherman, where he was stationed on one of the first exploratory boats to fish off both coasts of Africa. After fishing career concluded, he worked for the Pepsi Cola Bottling Group from April 5, 1976 to April 7, 1991. On April 8, 1991, Shannon went on to work for Interstate Brands Corporation (Weber's Bread) as a sales driver and union supervisor until February 28, 1999. While working for Weber's Bread, Shannon also served on the Executive Board of Teamster's Local 683.

He was elected as a Trustee on January 1, 1989, and appointed Recording Secretary on October 1, 1991 and appointed the Local's President on February 1, 1993.

On March 1, 1999 Shannon went to work for Local 683 full time as a Business Representative, until December 31, 2004. On January 1, 2005 he was appointed Secretary Treasurer of Local 683 and was re-elected January 1, 2007, in which he continues to serve in that capacity.

Shannon is currently a member of the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council Executive Board. He was also appointed to the National Bakery Drivers Policy Committee and serves as a Trustee on the San Diego County Teamsters-Employers Insurance Trust Fund, Teamsters Miscellaneous Security Trust Fund and the Southern California Bakery Drivers Security Fund.

It gives me a great honor Madam Speaker, to join with so many colleagues, community leaders and well wishers in proclaiming Shannon Silva as the San Diego Imperial Counties Labor Council's 2009, Labor Leader of the Year.

HONORING BENJAMIN HERZBERG

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Benjamin Herzberg, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1447, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Benjamin has been very active with his troop participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Benjamin has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Benjamin Herzberg for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. AARON SCHOCK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 2009

Mr. SCHOCK. Madam Speaker, in accordance with the Republican adopted standards on earmarks, I submit the below detailed explanation of the HIRE Education Construction and Green Academy Program.

Bill Number: H.R. 3293—Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010

Provisions/Account: Higher Education Account—Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education

Name and Address of Requesting Entity: The entity to receive funding for this project is Lincoln Land Community College located at 5250 Shepherd Road, Springfield, Illinois 62794–9256.

Description of Request: The funding would be used to purchase equipment in order to train targeted individuals for jobs with a current or projected shortage in order to enhance their employment opportunities. Targeted individuals include women, minorities, dislocated workers and the incarcerated.

BEATRICE ROSENBERG'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 2009

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I'd like to take this opportunity to say a few words about one of my constituents, Beatrice Rosenberg, born "Bernice Zam" on her 90th birthday.

Beatrice Rosenberg, born Bernice Zam, in the Bronx, New York, September 12, 1919, has lived through a Great Depression, two World Wars, and the many other events that have marked the last 90 years in America and through it all has continued to laugh and to dance. Her family and friends have said that through all of this, through poverty, through wartime and through widowhood, she has been relied on and has "been there" for them.

Bernice's father died when she was six months old. Her mother was a factory seamstress paid by the piece to sew lace onto ladies' undergarments. In 1935, when Bernice was 16, she had to quit high school to work in a laundry to support her pregnant mother and out-of-work stepfather. She gave all her earnings to her mother, except for carfare to work and to dance clubs, where she jitterbugged her cares away.

In 1943 she married a young pilot just before he shipped off to fight in World War II. (When her license application didn't match her birth certificate, she learned that her birth name actually was Beatrice, not Bernice). Her husband was overseas when she gave birth to their daughter in July 1944, and a few months